



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lowenstein Reappointed to Head IBO
Fourth Time for Four-Year Term, Longest-Serving City Agency Head
Unanimous Vote by James, Stringer, Brewer and Mark-Viverito**

Ronnie Lowenstein has been reappointed director of the New York City Independent Budget Office, the agency announced today. The reappointment marks her fourth consecutive four-year term. She first became IBO director in 2000, completing the term of the office's prior director.

Lowenstein was the unanimous choice of the four public officials the City Charter authorizes to appoint IBO's director: Public Advocate Letitia James, Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer (representing all five borough presidents), and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. The vote by the four appointing officials followed Lowenstein's unanimous nomination for reappointment by the IBO Advisory Board. The advisory board, created under the City Charter for the principal purpose of nominating an IBO director, is chaired by Alair Townsend, a former deputy mayor and publisher of Crain's New York Business.

"I am honored to again be chosen as director of IBO. There is so much valuable and interesting work ahead for IBO on education, economics, social services, health care, housing, and other local issues. I'm excited to have the opportunity to be part of these projects and continue to work with some of the most talented budget and policy analysts in New York," said Lowenstein.

Lowenstein is the longest serving head of any of New York's citywide agencies.

"Under the leadership of Ronnie Lowenstein, the IBO has delivered expert and unbiased analysis for some of the most pressing issues in New York City. Due to their hard work, we as policymakers can confidently make critical decisions to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers for years to come," said Public Advocate James. "I am particularly impressed with IBO's work on issues like government spending, housing, and child welfare issues. I look forward to working with Ronnie over the next four years."

Comptroller Stringer commented, "Over the last 14 years as director of the New York City Independent Budget Office, Ronnie Lowenstein has displayed great skill and the utmost professionalism as a nonpartisan reporter of city finances. Under her leadership, IBO has provided taxpayers and policymakers with unbiased budget assessments that are indispensable in leading our city down a financially sustainable path. I congratulate her on her reappointment as director, and look forward to future opportunities for collaboration."

"Ronnie Lowenstein has been exactly the kind of IBO director New York City needs: hard working, independent, a little wonky. She and the fantastic staff she's assembled have been utterly thorough and responsive watchdogs of the city's budget process," added Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer.

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said: "The Independent Budget Office plays a crucial role in New York City's government. I welcome the reappointment of Ronnie Lowenstein as IBO's director and look forward to working with her as we continue serving the residents of New York."

On behalf of the IBO Advisory Board, Chairperson Alair Townsend added, "We are pleased that the exceptional leadership Ronnie has provided to IBO will continue."

Lowenstein joined IBO at its inception in 1996 as chief economist and was first appointed director in 2000. Her first full term as director began in 2002. Prior to joining IBO, Lowenstein was an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and taught economics at Barnard College. She received a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University and a B.A. from Guilford College. A Manhattan resident, she is married to Ken Lowenstein, an attorney, and has two sons, Jeff and Marc.

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